



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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### UKRAINE

#### **USAID Launches Local Economic Development Project in Sevastopol**

On February 7, USAID's Local Economic Development (LED) Project, the Sevastopol City Council and the Sevastopol Municipal Administration signed a Protocol of Intent on cooperation to develop and implement a strategy to bring investment to the city.

The session was attended by Earl Gast, USAID Mission Director for Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, Valeriy Saratov, Chair of the Sevastopol City Council, Leonid Savchenko, Deputy Head of the Sevastopol Municipal Administration, and Howard Ockman, LED Chief of Party.

Following the signing ceremony, the City Council hosted the first session of the expert committee on strategic planning to promote investment.

The first expert committee session familiarized its members with the substance and schedule of the strategic planning effort that will be ongoing for the next few months.



*USAID/Ukraine Mission Director Earl Gast (right) and Sevastopol City Council Chair Valeriy Saratov sign Protocol of Intent on cooperation*

The expert committee consists of prominent community leaders, including CEOs of local businesses, city council members, local government officials, and representatives of the academic community and civil society organizations.

#### **Corporate Givers Taking Philanthropy to the Next Level**

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William B. Taylor addressed businesses and invited guests on February 6 during a Business Leader Seminar on social change philanthropy. The seminar introduced new philanthropy approaches based on business models, such as venture philanthropy and social entrepreneurship.



*U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William B. Taylor (left) with Business Leader Seminar participants*

The event came as corporate philanthropy becomes ever more important, with corporate foundations springing up, workplace giving strategies being launched, and overall charity efforts growing.

Featured guest speakers included Jorge Zukoski, President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine, Rob John, Senior Advisor to the European Venture Philanthropy Association based in London; and Shannon St. John, founding director and former CEO for the Triangle Community Foundation, USA.

#### **Ukrainian Judges and Chiefs of Court Staff Discuss New Rules of Conduct**

On February 5, a two-day international conference took place focusing on the need to implement new rules of conduct for court staff members.

The event was organized by the State Judiciary Administration of Ukraine and the Council of Judges, with support from USAID's Ukraine Rule of Law Project.

Attended by about 50 Ukrainian judges and chiefs of court staff, the conference opened with remarks by senior representatives of the Council of Judges and the State Judiciary Administration, and by Earl Gast, USAID Mission Director in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus.

"The judges and staff who work in courts are subject to a higher standard of professional behavior and conduct than most government officials and employees. It, therefore, is essential that principles and guidelines of professional behavior and conduct for both groups – judges as well as court staffers – are set forth in carefully articulated codes of conduct. Judges and court staff must clearly know and understand the standards to which they are being held," explained Mr. Gast in his welcoming remarks.



USAID/Ukraine Mission Director Earl Gast speaks at the event

State Judiciary Administration officials noted that while Ukraine still has to approve a code of conduct for court staffers, similar rules have already been implemented in many Central and Eastern European countries, including Russia, Romania and Serbia.

### **Certified Leasing Specialists Awards Ceremony**

On February 1, the Access to Credit Initiative (ATCI) awarded Certified Leasing Specialist (CLS) certificates to 16 individuals, who had passed three required exams under the program. The certificates were issued under the aegis of the Certified Leasing Specialists Union and the U.S. Foundation of Certified Leasing Professionals. This is the fourth group to pass the exams, bringing the total number of Certified Leasing Specialists in Ukraine to 67.

The awards ceremony was followed by the second general meeting of the Certified Leasing Specialists Union. This NGO was created with the ATCI assistance in 2007, aiming to continue the CLS training program and unite all certified leasing specialists.



Dmitry Bohodukhov, current Union President and director of LeaseIT, presents a certificate to a program graduate.

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## **M O L D O V A**

### **MCC Project Provides Free Legal Assistance to Investigative Journalists**

Investigative journalists in Moldova may now receive free legal assistance from a new project launched by Lawyers for Human Rights with funding from Moldova's Threshold Country Program (TCP), which is financed by the Millennium Challenge Corporation and managed by USAID.

The project "Free Legal Assistance to Journalists Dealing with Investigative Article" offers free legal analysis to Moldovan journalists producing investigative articles and reports, and, for the first time, provides a hot-line for immediate counsel. Additionally, journalists that are subjected to legal proceedings will be able to receive cost-free representation by the association's lawyers in domestic judicial proceedings.

# BELARUS

## Survey Shows Low Numbers of Voluntary Blood Donors in Moldova

On January 24, USAID's Preventing HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B and C Project (PHHP) held a forum together with the Ministry of Health to present important research findings on blood donations in Moldova.



*Stella Bivol, PHHP team leader, Blood Safety and Svetlana Cebotari, Director, National Blood Transfusion Center*

Research conducted by PHHP indicated that Moldova has a low number of voluntary, unpaid blood donors, and that many people believe that donating blood is unsafe. However, global research indicates that patients who receive blood from voluntary, unpaid donors have the lowest risk of acquiring infections such as HIV, and hepatitis B and C. Moreover, donating blood in Moldova is now safe for both donors and patients. Medical supplies are used only once, and all donated blood is tested for the presence of infectious diseases, including HIV, hepatitis B and C, and syphilis.

Based on these findings, the National Blood Transfusion Center is currently designing a national plan to promote blood donations. Attracting healthy donors is the next challenge, as Moldova seeks a strategy to ensure safe blood is available to every patient who needs it.

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## A Family Health Center Opening in a Chernobyl - Contaminated Area Attracts Public Attention

The family health consultation and information center *Dialogue* was opened in Stolin, Brest Region of Belarus, on January 17 as part of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Family Health Project implemented in partnership with USAID. The center will inform the local community of potential dangers to reproductive health associated with living in radiation-contaminated areas.

*Dialogue* will provide individual consultations to pregnant women, nursing mothers, and other women of reproductive age, as well as future and actual fathers. It will focus on promoting the basics of radio-ecological safety essential for reproductive health. "It is very important to bring relevant knowledge to women in rural areas," pointed out Ms. Viktoriya Drobyshevskaya, Project Manager.



*"Dialogue" center head, Ms. Raisa Misiura, deputy chief doctor of Stolin District Hospital, receives UNDP sponsored publications on safe living practices in contaminated areas.*

Representatives of the local administration, the Brest Branch of the Institute of Radiology, and various medical education institutions attended the opening. The event was widely covered in the Belarusian mass-media, including TV, newspapers and news websites.

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